

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listing of claims in this application.

Listing of Claims:

1-9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended) A process for the production of a plasticiser ester comprising:
- (i) esterifying an acid or an anhydride with an alcohol containing from 6 to 13 carbon atoms to form a crude ester; then
 - (ii) treating the crude ester with a base to form a treated ester; then without a stripping step to remove excess alcohol prior to step (iii),
 - (iii) filtering the treated ester to separate a liquid product; then
 - (iv) stripping the liquid product to form a stripped material; then
 - (v) treating the stripped material with activated carbon; and then
 - (vi) filtering the product of step (v), ~~optionally~~ in the presence of a filter aid, to remove the adsorbent from the plasticiser ester;

wherein the plasticizer ester comprises a di-alkyl phthalate selected from at least one of the group consisting of di-2-ethyl hexyl phthalate, di-isononyl phthalate, and di-isodecyl phthalate, characterised by a carbonyl number below 0.2 mg KOH/g, a light ends content of less than 1000 ppm wt, and a liquid volume resistivity (LVR) (in units of 10^{12} ohm.cm) that is:

- i) greater than about 0.3 in the case where di-alkyl is di-2-ethyl hexyl;
- ii) greater than about 0.6 in the case where di-alkyl is di-isononyl; and
- iii) greater than about 1.35 in the case where di-alkyl is di-isodecyl.

11. (Original) The process according to claim 10 wherein the base is an alkali metal salt.
12. (Original) The process according to claim 10 wherein the base is selected from the group consisting of sodium hydroxide and sodium carbonate.
- 13 - 18. (Cancelled)

19. (Original) The process according to claim 10 wherein the combined amount of adsorbent and the filter aid employed is from about 0.01 to about 5 wt%, based on the weight of the plasticiser ester.

20 - 22. (Cancelled)

23. (Original) The process according to claim 10 wherein the filter aid is a clay.

24 - 25. (Cancelled)

26. (Original) The process according to claim 10 wherein the treatment step (v) is performed at a temperature in the range of about 20 to about 180°C.

27. (Original) The process according to claim 10 wherein the treatment step (v) is performed at a temperature in the range of about 80 to about 120°C.

28. (Original) The process according to claim 10 wherein the treatment step (v) is performed at a temperature in the range of about 80 to about 120°C and in which the plasticizer ester is a C₈ to C₁₃ dialkyl phthalate.

29 - 39. (Cancelled)